

July 20

1920

Monk's House
Roddrell.

7a

Dearest,

I rang up to ask whether the
warrants may apply to you in
case of emergency while we're away.
We had to go before the Dr. had
been to say whether Nelly may
travel today. I think it possible
he won't let her, in which case
it's conceivably possible that there
might be one of the usual panics,
which would be calmed if they
heard your voice. But Nelly
is practically all right, & has
had no panics for 2 days. The
seems to be having exactly what
we had at Christmas - nothing wrong
except a slight temperature. The
panel doctor is fearfully strict
however, & will neither let her eat
nor get up. I never

asked you after your arm the other night —
not lack of affection, but scatterness of
brain? How is it?

Madox is reviewed in the Times; by
John Bailey I think, all lies,
very polite, & as 'dull as ditchwater';
I suppose poor Richmond rang me
up to say that he understood why
I would not review it — 'the
takes offence very easily I know'.
We've been having strawberries for tea,
& thou'll be raspberries for dinner —
don't this tempt you down! Besides,
I'm asking Japan over.

I hope Julian's all right.
Tell him he must be well for
the Sticklebacks next week.

Y^r B.

Perhaps I'll come in to tea on
Monday on my way home.

1986

15 Aug 1920

Mouth's House.

Sunday.

Dearest

I went to see Mr Hawkins, & find that she drove over to Charleston the other day, & thought the loneliness of the house would cause her to think too much of her dead son, so she has decided to take a place in Jersey. Her teeth are horrible, & from the way in which she spoke about the air raid, a memory coming over her if she sat alone, I'm sure she would soon become frantic. However, she told me that you would easily get a married couple to suit if you wrote to the address I enclose. They are supplying the man who has fits to with a couple to take Mr Hawkins's place. He will certainly have a fit to morrow ^{the day} when the news is broken to him. The ~~the~~ scene in the garden was indescribable, as he hurried out to talk to us - upon which 2 bees got into my hair, & with great

presence of mind, I put a finger into each
ear while Leonard scratched my head.
Neither you could therefore answer him -
but his conversation continued - The bees
swarmed round us - Mr Hawkins told
the story of your sons death & cried a little -
& as I say Mr. Fears was evidently on
the verge of an attack.

But I dont see why you shouldnt
come over all the same. Nelly Cecil,
for some extraordinary reason, proposes to
come to lunch on Tuesday - Wait
you come too? I wish you would.

I greatly enjoyed my visit. I
left my nightgown & my spectacles
behind, but Lettie will bring
them.

Boxall
Nelly seems to think she's coming on
Thursday, so if anyone will
come for a night we can house
them with ease.

G B.

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24 Aug 1920

7 (6)

Monk's Tuesday.

Dear,

Do let us meet in Lewes - I also have to go there. Thursday or Friday - Only, if it's to be Thursday you must send a card at once. I wish you'd come back & spend the night; but it's no good asking. Our Zinnia's are at their best. I had one more farewell visit to Katharine yesterday, as she got ill, & had to put off coming here. Another magazine is being started by Michael Sadler, with pictures: you ought to contribute: I've not been asked to: Katharine has. But there's still hope, as it doesn't begin till January. Of course I'm going to review her book. Otherwise I didn't get much going. I hear from Molly that Michael lives with a family on the Loire to learn French, which sounds rather a good idea. Leonard is writing to Wells about the school at Haurstanton - which is in existence, though the master may be dead. We had Nelly Cecil here from 12 to 5, & had to talk incessantly through the ear trumpet, except for one break when I shut her up in a bed room alone with a large po & forgot that the handle only turns from outside - so there she was battering in vain. But she did her duty, which was the important thing. She is losing her faith. As I

think its the only thing that keeps her from despair I do my best to revive it - without much success. Incredible they are - the elderly aristocracy - ~~the~~ the shabbiness, dirt, & disorder of the house surrounded her like a deserted battlefield. I can't think how they manage to affect one so. Betty Mayre has a house in Kent, & is as lovely as ever. I heard a good deal about Irene Noel, whose husband is Lord Peter's secretary - but let us have ices & sugar cakes & go into all this libidinally.

I think Elvie might come for the night.

Duncan I suppose is on the high horse.

I shall have to write to him ^{NYPL} I should like to be asked again.

YMS

We've got Carrington & Partridge for the week end. I don't see that it would be a good thing to bring about a legitimate union? Monday would suit me slightly better than Friday, if its the same to you; but in that case you'll have to write by return without fail. & I think you might come back for the night.

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Dearest Dolly,

We think you had better choose what size you like — Our Dolly was Crown 8vo. Kew Gardens was Henry 8vo. Roger is having a square size which is being cut for him. We can really do any size you like —

I should like of course to see you, but the difficulties seem great. The pedals of my bicycle spin round & round without moving the wheels. But if you would let me know any day that suits you (we leave on Thursday) I would drive in & meet you, & drive you to the train again.

Has Duncan let his Fitzroy Studio?
Would he prefer like to let to me for our
Dinner's now & then? — I should like the name
anyhow. Please explain to Quentin

that the Skilla which he wanted has, of course, gone
out of fashion; so I got the nearest thing, but

I hear they catch large live - or almost live - fish,
so my magnets will be very dull - However, I should
like them, if he doesn't.

The Clergyman is coming to tea -
What an excitement!

NYPL

yes B.

Sept 1920

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Rodmell -

A trap, or fly, very shabby, will be at the station
on Saturday to meet the 4.27.

I expect Tom will come by that - but he
may come by an earlier one. So if he
doesn't appear, will you get in ~~day~~ &
drive off.

Would you give the enclosed to Blanche -
with many thanks. I forgot it - but
I don't think I forgot anything else, which is
remarkable.

How I did enjoy myself - thanks to a
loving heart & a head full of maggots.
It strikes me that this house is tiny
compared with yours - like a nut shell.